Statement

S.No.	Name of District	No. of telephone connections provided during			Waiting list
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (as on 31.1.97)	(as on 31.12.96)
1.	Ahmedabad	18919	33279	16369	51090
2.	Amreli	1747	2369	1197	6261
3.	Banaskantha (PMP)	2769	4298	2381	9245
4.	Baroda	16000	19654	10987	33911
5.	Bharuch	2510	5711	5616	9664
6.	Bhavnagar	4615	3549	2067	20242
7.	Bhuj	4348	2905	5099	14989
8.	Gandhinagar	4741	2891	687	3911
9.	Panchmahal	3300	2723	2371	6049
10.	Jamnagar	4826	3504	2564	8155
11.	Junagadh	3686	1720	3873	15914
12.	Rajkot	9390	11070	8001	18379
13.	Sabarkantha	2842	2786	1773	11360
14.	Surat	20001	15114	14648	30141
15.	Surendranagar	2382	1802	2192	4088
16.	Mehsana	8228	8021	5685	19805
17.	Kheda	4023	4121	2567	12800
18.	Valsad	7303	8189	4349	15395
19.	Dang-Ahwa	52	101	129	96
20.	Union Territories (Diu, Daman & Dadra Nagar Haveli)	805	1105	632	3264
		122507	134832	93187	294759

[English]

Flight to Gulf Countries

1007. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to be state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new flights to some Gulf and Central Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries to which these flights are proposed to be introduced; and

(c) the time by which the above new flights are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced 11 new flights on Gulf sectors during the year 1996-97. Further augmentation of flights to Gulf countries would depend upon the market requirements, which are constantly monitored by the airlines through traffic surveys. Air India/Indian Airlines have also been asked to conduct a traffic survey to consider the feasibility of introducing direct airlinks to Tashkent and Almaty.

New Aviation Policy

1008. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to be state :

(a) whether the Government have recently approved the new aviation policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to permit new foreign and private sector companies to operate in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such a move is likely to affect adversely the domestic airlines;

(f) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(g) if not, the extent to which it will help to improve the air facilities for inland and foreign passangers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The salient features of the recently approved policy on domestic air transport services are enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (g) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

Statement

The main features of the recently approved policy framework for domestic air transport services are as follows :

1. Barriers to entry and exit from this sector should be removed. There should only be a pre-entry scrutiny of applications to verify the financial soundness, maintenance, security and safety aspects of operations and human resources development proposed to be undertaken by the applicant.
2. Choice of the aircraft type and size should be left to the operator.
3. To eliminate non-serious entrepreneurs and to achieve economies of scale, the minimum fleet size for a scheduled operator should be raised from the existing three (3) to five (5) aircraft and the minimum amount of the shareholders funds should be enhanced from existing Rs. 5.00 crores to Rs. 10 crores for aircraft of all-up-weight below 40,000 kgs and from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 30 crores for aircraft of all up weight exceeding 40,000 kgs.
4. Induction of total capacity in the air transport sector should be predetermined on the basis of trend growth of traffic and projections made for at least a period of five years on annual basis. This information should be widely publicised to enable the entrepreneur to take investment decisions.
5. In the distribution of this predetermined capacity for induction, while preference will be given to Indian Airlines according to its fleet augmentation plan subject to its ability to do so, to meet a share of additional capacity that would emerge each year, there would not be any pre-determined restriction on the induction of capacity by private operators.
6. The present policy of route dispresal guidelines by retained and strictly enforced. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep 10% of their capacity deployed on the specified trunk routes.

I.A. and A.I. Loans from Foreign and Indian Banks

1009. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the financial position of Indian Airlines and Air India including their liabilities during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of loan borrowed by Indian Airlines and Air India from Indian and foreign banks during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 and proposed to be borrowed during the current year for their working capital requirements; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the financial position of I.A. and A.I.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Indian Airlines and Air India are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

Statement

Details of financial position of Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) are as under.

(Rs. in Crores)

	Air India Ltd.			Indian Airlines Ltd.		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Capital	79.47	153.84	153.84	55.15	55.15	105.19
Reserves & Surplus	1230.54	1281.57	980.67	584.48	607.07	526.56